

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**1-16. (Cancelled)**

**17. (New)** A method for collecting acrylic acid comprising:

introducing a reaction gas into a collection column at a temperature of 140 to 250°C, the reaction gas comprising acrylic acid obtained by catalytic vapor-phase oxidation of propane, propylene, and/or acrolein;

introducing an aqueous medium into the collection column at a temperature of 20 to 50°C whereby the acrylic acid in the reaction gas is collected in the aqueous medium to produce an acrylic acid aqueous solution;

causing the acrylic acid aqueous solution to flow out from the bottom of the collection column;

causing the reaction gas remaining after the collection step to flow out from the top of the collection column; and

performing heat removal in the collection column by using a heat-removing device on the collection column to maintain the following condition:  $0.8 < (B/A) < 1.25$ , wherein A represents a weight fraction of acrylic acid to all condensable ingredients in the reaction gas before collecting acrylic acid and B represents a weight fraction of acrylic acid in the bottom of the collection column.

**18. (New)** The method according to claim 17, wherein the aqueous medium introduced into the collection column is an aqueous solution that comprises at least 90 wt% of water.

**19. (New)** The method according to claim 17, wherein the temperature at the top of the collection column is 72°C or less, and the temperature of the bottom at the collection column is 86°C or less.

**20. (New)** The method according to claim 17, wherein a water content in the aqueous medium introduced into the collection column is 0.5- to 2-fold of a water content in the reaction gas introduced into the collection column.

**21. (New)** The method according to claim 17, wherein a degree of fluctuation of the temperature at the top of the collection column is within 2°C in steady operation conditions.

**22. (New)** The method according to claim 21, wherein the temperature at the top of the collection column is kept within  $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  of a temperature in steady operation conditions.

**23. (New)** The method according to claim 17, wherein the aqueous medium introduced into the collection column comprises at least 90 wt% of water, and the water content in the aqueous medium is 0.5- to 2-fold of a water content in the reaction gas introduced into the collection column.

**24. (New)** The method according to claim 23, wherein a degree of fluctuation of the temperature at the top of the collection column is within 2°C in steady operation conditions.

**25. (New)** The method according to claim 24, wherein the temperature at the top of the collection column is kept within  $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  of a temperature in steady operation conditions.

**26. (New)** The method according to claim 17, wherein the aqueous medium introduced into the collection column comprises at least 90 wt% of water, wherein the water content in the aqueous medium is 0.5- to 2-fold of a water content in the reaction gas introduced into the collection column, and  $B/A < (B/A) \leq 1.15$ .